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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Stephen L. Crooks, et al
Application No. 10/027,272
Filed: December 21, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 54913US108

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: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
:

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed by facsimile transmission on February 28, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional applications, and on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to a prior-filed provisional application.

The petition is **Granted**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;¹

¹ Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS)) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 1.14).

(2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant application was filed on December 21, 2001 and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6):

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

(1) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);

(2) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional; and

(3) the reference to the prior filed provisional application supplied in an application data sheet (ADS) 37 CFR 1.76) or as an amendment in the first sentence of the specification following the title. See 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i). The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant application seeks acceptance of a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/138,365. Additionally, nonprovisional Application No. 09/589,216 was filed within twelve months of provisional Application No. 60/138,365, for which priority is now sought under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6). A reference to the prior-filed application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed applications was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. See 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant

petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to the prior-filed applications is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703) 305-8859 .

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 1625 for processing the amendment filed February 28, 2003, and for processing and consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for the benefit of the above-noted, prior filed nonprovisional applications, and for consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) for the benefit of prior-filed provisional application, Application No. 60/138,365, filed June 10, 1999.



Frances Hicks

Lead Petitions Examiner

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